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DOS AND DON'TS

Dos

Be prepared

- Ensure that you have the correct documentation: machine-readable passport, birth certificate, appropriate visa if required, i.e. work/student/residence visa
- Do as much preparation as possible before you go, as it is vital to be as prepared as you can
- Buy a return ticket so you can come home if things don't work out. Remember, if you are visiting the USA you may not be admitted without a return ticket
- Check out Irish Centres in your chosen destination - they will have information for newly arrived immigrants, which includes lists of employment agencies and companies

- If possible check the Internet for possible vacancies and obtain copies of US newspapers.

Bring relevant qualifications

- Bring evidence of your qualifications - degrees/trade qualifications/ driver's licence.

Bring sufficient funds

- **Make sure you can use your Irish bankcards in the USA. If they have "Maestro" and/or "Cirrus" logo's they are required to work. Ask your nearest bank branch before you go**
- Ensure that you are financially stable and have enough money for rent/deposits, living expenses and for unplanned developments
- Bring sufficient funds to support yourself until you find a job
- Have enough money for a return ticket just in case it doesn't work out.

Invest in travel and medical insurance

- It is advisable to have travel and medical insurance. As the saying goes, "better safe than sorry!".

Have contacts

- Ensure you bring the contact details for family and friends
- Ensure you have the contact details of your nearest Irish Immigration Center in order to link in with them if necessary
- Bring any contacts you have on accommodation and prospective employers.

Don'ts

Don't carry a lot of cash

- Try to avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Try to use credit cards, ATM cards and travellers' cheques, which are much safer.

Don't travel without:

- The appropriate documents-severe penalties may apply. These penalties may include a possible jail sentence and deportation
- A visa - do not work without a valid visa as deportation could result.

Don't forget:

- To give yourself time - it takes time to adjust.
Be patient with yourself
- To try to learn the system and study the culture
- That things are different in USA than in Ireland and adapting to a new system is an essential part of living in a new environment
- To be confident in your own skills and education
- **To contact Crosscare Migrant Project before you leave:**

Crosscare Migrant Project

1 Cathedral Street

Dublin 1

Website: www.migrantproject.ie

Email: migrantproject@crosscare.ie

Telephone: 00 353 1 873 2844

Telephone: 00 353 1 872 6171

Facsimile: 00 353 1 872 7003

